



Board Meeting Minutes
First Christian Church
March 18, 2023, 10:00 am

1) OPENING ITEMS

- a) Call to Order / Establish Quorum (10:03 am Ric Brightman, Phil Brooks, Rev. Patrick Crocker, Eric Hays-Strom, Scott Hays-Strom, Karen Holmes, Kamy McKenzie-Shaw, Bruce Weber, Sherry Woods)

Excused: Esther Devall

Absent:

Present: Deb Cook, Paul Whitacre

- b) Devotional Minute – not given today because Esther is ill and Scott wasn't notified until just before the meeting started.

- c) Approval of Agenda:

- d) Approval of Minutes:

- i) Board Meeting February 18, 2023

- e) Log email vote –

- i) None

2) COMMITTEE REPORTS

- a) Technology Committee – Eric/Bruce

Bruce – Informed the group of the notice of attacks on our website.

- b) Faith Action Committee – Paul W – no report

- c) Worship Committee – Deb C. noted the positive responses to Rev. Patrick's sermons.

- i) Attendance Report – Eric

- d) Property Liaison – Karen

Karen asked the authority the Property Liaison has when tenants make requests. The consensus of the group was the liaison was given the authority to respond to the requests as long as the building is not impacted. At that point the board will need to be involved.

- e) Pastoral Support Committee – Esther – No report

- f) Pastor's Report – Rev. Patrick

Things are going well with worship, and he has been doing some pastoral counseling.

- g) Treasurer's Report – Bruce

We receive donations during the coffee hour after the church service. The person who has been providing the treats does not want the money to reimburse for the items they've purchased. The question is how to use and disburse the coffee fund? Since the monies are not needed at this time by those currently buying the treats, we should leave the fund for another deacon, who may need the funding or use toward paper products for our potlucks.

h) Financial Secretary's Report – Eric

Our average giving was higher than the expected average pledge.

i) Pledging Status – Eric

ii) Stewardship – No report because Esther was absent.

i) Property Matters – Update on Backyard Farms

A group discussion regarding the electric use in the Backyard Farms hydroponic gardening.

Since Esther wasn't present, Karen summed up the information from the safety meeting between the licensed electrician, Rachael of Backyard Farms and church members. Brian Lee signed a letter stating the installation met city codes. Ralph Holmes did the follow-up check of the remaining items that needed to be completed.

Paul W. gave his point of view that the installation does not meet city codes and the church is at risk.

The consensus of the group is Esther needs to be here to make the decision but Backyard Farms can't wait until next month. It was agreed that Esther should call a meeting of those at the safety meeting and Paul W. to discuss.

j) Pastoral Search Committee – Karen

i) Is there a policy requiring us to alternate pastors between UCC and DOC? No, look at both and get the best pastor from DOC or UCC.

ii) Are we using the same pay and benefits package from our last profile or will it be updated? The benefits will stay the same. The salary will have a value, but it will be negotiable. The search committee should get guidelines from DOC and UCC to have an average. The base salary used for Rev. Bethany can be used as a starting point but she was a new pastor and it needs to be updated for inflation.

iii) Will the Search Committee be able to add questions to the board's survey or do they need to make their own? The group agreed it is better to have one survey combining the congregation questionnaire with the pastoral search questionnaire. Ralph H. should discuss with Kamy. Phil requested the inclusion of age ranges for congregation demographics. The range will be set at 5 year intervals. Ric mentioned that the conferences may have questionnaires that can be used to help fill the church profile. Some of those questions can be included in the survey Kamy is creating.

3) STRATEGIC PLAN REVIEW - Eric

See Document: 3_Monitoring and evaluation of plan.docx

Worship: Moving the tables in the worship area – like coffee house worship.

Change to call to worship then prelude.

Progressive readings – re-evaluate for each pastor.

Updates to Brochures, signage, website... Working on the website

4) OLD BUSINESS:

- a) Status of Jon Kessler boxes – Eric/Scott: Still no response. Going to dump/recycle. Ric will help.
- b) Projection Screen – Eric discussed with John S. Instead of moving the current screen to the side we should put in a large screen monitor. It is lighter and stable (not moving up and down). The monitor will have a computer so can have a desktop computer for the church. Get prices for next month.

5) NEW BUSINESS

- a) Congregational Survey – Kamy – See response - Committee Reports, Pastoral Search Committee, question iii.
- b) Casa de Peregrinos –
They are in the process of building a new facility. As funding for new building, persons or organizations can have their name engraved on a brick for \$10,000 or have their name included on a community wall.
Ric moved we spend \$250 from outreach monies toward having our name included on the community wall, Phil seconded, approved.
- c) Inspection of stained glass window – Associated Crafts & Willet Hauser sent a mailer that they will be in the area. They will come to inspect our stained glass window for free and with no obligation. Bruce checked the internet and they appear to be a reputable company. After discussion, we decided to pass on the inspection. We felt they will try to sell something, and we have insurance to cover the window.

6) ANNOUNCEMENTS

- a) Open Floor – The UCC Conference will be held April 27 – 29 in El Paso. FCC members are asked to participate in the conference. Ric is organizing the closing service. Scott will play the keyboard, and someone is needed for a speaking part.
- b) Next Board Meeting: Moved from April 15 to April 22, 2023, 10 a.m. because Esther has a conflict.

- 7) Adjournment: Eric moved, and Sherry seconded to adjourn the meeting.
Meeting adjourned at 11:50 am.

Submitted by Karen Holmes, Secretary